

**By Brig. Gen.
Robert D. Bisop, Jr.**
437 AW commander

Good news from Phoenix rally on AEF, YOFAM and inspections

Just returned from the Phoenix Rally conference at Air Mobility Command Headquarters with Gen. Charles T. "Tony" Robertson, commander of AMC, and many of his senior staff.

The conference covered a wide variety of issues, some of which I'll share with you in this article. One of the most important subjects discussed at the conference was the Air Expeditionary Force concept. The good news from the Command is the AEF is allowing the advanced scheduling that we hoped it would which is translating into greater stability and predictability (and less of a workload) for the airlift community.

As AEF rotates deployed forces every 90 days, AMC plans to use a mixture of C-5s, C-17s, and Commercial Contract lift. The lift requirement is being spread out over a 20-day window to lessen the overall impact on airlift and to smooth-flow the forces into and out-of the AOR.

Inspections

The Air Force's approach in structuring the AEF is to create a force responsive to theater CINC needs using the Total Force, adopt a "culture" that is expeditionary, and move our "operational" mindset to one where light, lean and lethal elements are key. With these concepts

in mind, future inspections by the command will focus on observing and evaluating real world operations—which again should have a positive impact on reducing ops tempo primarily. No longer will an airlift wing have to surge everyone and everything for an ORI. Inspectors will ensure we are "combat ready" by evaluating our different UTCs as they go about their normal training exercises or operational deployments.

Another major topic at the conference was the Command's emphasis on the Year of the Family. World events didn't allow us to fully focus on YOFAM1, so the commanders thought our work here in recognizing the contributions of our families was "unfinished business." Each wing will have their shot at additional monies in fiscal 2000. As in the past, General Robertson's checkbook speaks loudly of his commitment to funding items that have a positive impact on all members of the AMC family.

In taking the program to an even higher level, the focus for YOFAM2 will be on highlighting the various programs/services that are available throughout AMC while attempting

to benchmark successful programs for further implementation throughout AMC. You will definitely see a repeat of ATWIND, the Services-run program where you earned game pieces for visiting various Services Facilities. It was a huge success in 1999 with more than 22,000 participants, 200,000 game pieces, and 3,300 prizes.

General and Mrs. Hopper

Last night through tomorrow, we get the chance to host Maj. Gen. John D. Hopper, Jr. and his wife, Trish, for their first official visit to the base as our 21st Air Force commander and spouse. General Hopper has also brought the 21st Air Force Command Chief Master Sgt. Mike Kerver with him and they will all be out and around today and tomorrow meeting with the men and women of Team Charleston. Please welcome them with your usual "Team Charleston" spirit. General and Mrs. Hopper will also cut the ribbon, opening 74 newly refurbished homes in Hunley Park this morning and will also tour a number of our facilities. Special thanks to project officer Maj. Joseph Mancy from the 17th Airlift Squadron, the Protocol staff, and all

of Team Charleston for their outstanding support.

A hearty congratulations to our Advanced Studies of Air Mobility selectees: Majors Paul LaVigne and Doug Furst. They were selected to attend this very prestigious 13-month course at McGuire AFB, N.J. Through the course of study, Paul and Doug will truly become Air Mobility warriors. It is indeed an honor for Charleston to get two of only 11 slots. Please congratulate these officers on their selection!

Special thanks to the 437th Support Group for the great job they did in hosting the town hall meeting on Monday. The attendance was great and it was obvious to me that many of you care about the community in which we live and work. Stay tuned for more details as the 437th Support Group works to get answers to your questions and concerns.

Safety note

Finally, a note of caution. Sometimes as the holidays approach, it can lead to depression and other serious problems, which if left untreated could cause someone to attempt to hurt themselves. At Charleston, our suicide rate has been historically low because we care about

our people and have many programs that intervene before a service member, Reservist, civilian or family members feel so helpless they want to harm themselves.

Sometimes it may only take a friend or supervisor to get involved to lend a helping hand. We all need to be especially aware of the obvious "signs" from our co-workers, friends and family.

With these thoughts, I offer the following suggestions:

■ **Know the risk signs:** including relationship breakup, depression, alcohol misuse

■ **Know how to intervene/refer:** take responsibility and use the many professionals at Charleston, especially the outstanding staff in Behavioral Sciences and the Chaplaincy

■ **Know how to encourage help seeking:** apply Operational Risk management to the protection and welfare enhancement of our personnel. Cut through pride, and view help seeking for what it is, performance enhancement and skill building

With holiday parties and events in full swing, I look forward to seeing many of you at your squadron and group events. We want everyone to enjoy himself or herself, but please remember to use common sense regarding drinking and driving. So far, all is quiet on the eastern and western fronts. Let's continue to enjoy a safe and wonderful holiday season!

Action Line



Senior Airman Michael Duhe

Brig. Gen. Robert D. Bishop, Jr., 437 AW commander, and 437 AW Command Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Bruch take a decoration from the Angel tree at the Family Support Center Monday.

The Commander's Action line is your direct link to me. It's your opportunity to make Charleston Air Force Base a better place to live, work and play. First give the appropriate base agency a chance to solve the problem, but if you don't get a satisfactory answer, call me at **963-5581** or send an e-mail to **action@charleston.af.mil**

It's my pleasure to write the Action Line with a compliment instead of a complaint or problem. I'm a civilian employee working with C-17 maintenance training device's and have been associated with the project for five years.

I recently encountered a child care dilemma when our in-home babysitter quit without notice. Prior to this, our 2-year old daughter was enrolled at a local daycare center. My wife and I were not satisfied with the daycare center for various reasons and after the babysitter quit, we were in a predicament. My wife said she thought there was a child care center on base, and that it was the best in the area, but that it was difficult to get in because of that fact (Your reputation precedes you). I made a phone call and was told we were qualified to enroll our daughter.

Our first contact person at the CDC was **Idas Atkinson**, whose help with enrollment was a huge burden lifted off our

shoulders. She is the one who "made it all happen." She saw our problem and took timely action to get us in immediately. After the enrollment process was completed and our daughter began attending, her teacher requested a conference to discuss Noelle's (our daughter) development and what we (as parents) expected from CDC. This thoroughly impressed us. It was then, that we realized the CDC was more than a babysitter, they were truly interested in our child!

Lillia Bohorquez and **Gail White** are Noelle's teachers and Noelle loves them and they love her. Noelle has blossomed under their guidance. They make a very effective child development team. I can not say enough good things about them. I have noticed they truly care about all the children under their care. **Debbie Ross**, the director, is doing an outstanding job operating the CDC, as evidenced by the quality of the facility and personnel. It's top notch! I served 13 years in the U.S. Navy and we used the phrase Bravo Zulu, which denoted the highest compliment that was received. General Bishop, my statement to you and the Child Development Center is simply...BRAVO ZULU!!

Douglas and Cheri Taylor

Airlift DISPATCH

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